



THE JEWISH DAILY

# פֶּוֹרְשָׁוֶרד

SHA'AR ZAHAV

שַׁעַר זָהָב

APRIL 1980

## off the (eastern) wall

Sha'ar Zahav formulated its current organizational structure during its first year of existence. It entailed the election by the entire membership of the four officers: co-leaders, recorder and treasurer. The remaining members of the Va'ad (the board of directors), were to be elected by the members of the several standing committees of the synagogue. The assumption was that there would be many people on each committee and that there would be many people on each committee and that these persons, by selecting "their" representative on the Va'ad, the authority for synagogue governance would emerge from the grass-roots of the organization.

This system worked well in one respect: these have been hard-working and productive Va'ads. However, last year it became evident that there were problems selecting the Va'ad in this manner because many of the committees were small and unrepresentative. What was designed to be a very democratic process became something much less than that. Membership on the Va'ad would frequently change, resulting, many times, from peoples changing interests and involvements.



In order to rectify some of these shortcomings--to ensure a more stable Va'ad elected, on a broadly represented basis, by all the members of the Congregation, we approved a change in our by-laws last fall to begin having annual elections for Va'ad members as well as the four officers. This new system will work, however, only if the requisite number of members are willing to commit themselves to stand for positions on the Va'ad. Penny Dachinger, our Co-leader, is chairing the Elections Committee. Over the next few weeks, she and other members of her committee will be contacting many of you. Please try to respond favorably. It would be even better not to wait for a call, but to make one yourself. Let's all work together to make the new system even better than the old one.

Shalom

Dan Chesir

Co-leader

Lenny Galatioto will be coordinating the calendar for each month's FORWARD. If any of you:

- 1) have scheduled a specific Sha'ar Zahav event, or
- 2) know of any community event--Jewish or gay--that would be of interest to our readers,

please contact Lenny at 563-1593 in the evenings. Incidentally, Lenny is our Publicity Co-ordinator and will handle, as appropriate, the publicity for Sha'ar Zahav events.

Shalom

Daniel Chesir

Co-leader



# from where i stand

17 March 1980

Several exciting ideas involving our members more actively have come up recently, and I had hoped to encourage some participation by highlighting them in my monthly article.

Preliminary discussions about the formation of an in-house hevra kadisha have been taking place. Literally translated as "holy society", the term comes into general usage as a group whose responsibility it is to help those who need it when they or a loved one are dying or have died. For example, helping a bereaved member of the congregation to get through the maze of details and arrangements which accompany funerals is one way the group functions. Another is the being available from the time of death until the funeral, so that the proper traditions and procedures can be respected. A third way is in the comprising of a minyan at the house of mourning during the week following the funeral. There are other ways of course, but there are so many unknowns involved in this for the great majority of people going through this unpleasant experience that the knowledge that there is an educated and compassionate support group from within our own community should be comforting in itself.

Another group which will be taking shape soon (hopefully) is a group dedicated to bikkur holim, visiting the sick. The need for this should be apparent if you stop to think of the example of one of our members who became ill, lives alone, was too weak to leave the house to get food and had little in the house to eat. Had there been such a group, he would only have had to make one phone call and they could have helped him get to the doctor, buy food supplies for him, brought him whatever he needed, etc. Visits to hospitals are another way in which this second mitzvah are performed. And, as in the first instance, there are lots of other ways as well.

For us at Sha'ar Zahav, the concepts of mishpahah (family) and kehilla (community) can rightly be blurred. I hope that as these and other groups form within the congregation, you will want to join them and actively participate in them. They are some of the best ways to make us a truly united family.



# education

The Education Committee is organizing at the present time different courses for members of Sha'ar Zahav that we hope to offer in the beginning of June 1980. Some classes planned include:

- Beginning Biblical Hebrew
- Intermediate Biblical Hebrew
- Beginning Modern Hebrew
- Jewish and Israeli Folk Songs
- Judaism and Human Sexuality
- Survey of Jewish History
- Modern Hebrew Poetry
- Survey of 20th Century Jewish Philosophers and Philosophies
- Jewish Food/Israeli Folk Dancing

Our primary goal through the different courses we are offering to members of Sha'ar Zahav is to make Jewish learning more readily available and free of charge. Knowledge and learning has been in Judaism a tradition since the Biblical times. We hope that the members of our synagogue will make use of the courses listed and be enriched by learning from them.

Let us know which courses are of interest to you by calling Haim Gamborg (221-9138) or John Horstman (566-7939), or let us know during announcements on Friday nights. The May issue of the FORWARD will contain registration form for you to complete. In April we will be having a planning meeting of the Education committee; time and place will be announced later.

Haim Gamborg  
John Horstman



## THIS MONTH'S CELEBRATIONS

### The Omer Period

The Omer period lasts for 49 days, and extends from Passover to Shavuos, linking these two festivals in a tangible way. Through "counting the omer" (which is done ritualistically at evening services by stating which day of the Omer period it is), an air of expectancy is built up for Shavuos, which is the celebration of the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. As with most Jewish events, there are both religious and agricultural roots to the counting of the Omer. Omer translates literally as a measure of grains. In Israel, this time of the year is a critical one for crops, and the fate of the harvest hangs on a balance. Religiously, the time commemorates the apprehensive anticipation of the giving of the law. The anticipation is not festive, though; the mood is best described as one of semi-mourning. Weddings are not performed, and it is customary not to cut one's hair. This is partially in remembrance of the terrible plagues which decimated Rabbi Akiba's students.

The one exception to the gloomy air that prevails is Lag B'Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer period. On this day, the sanctions against haircuts and other symbols of mourning are lifted. It is traditionally a day of outings and picnics. While one interpretation of this celebration is that on the day the plague ceased, the parallels with pagan celebrations of spring are obvious. While Judaism as a monotheistic, non-naturalistic religion could not sanction nature-worship, it could "co-opt" enjoyment of nature and give it new religious meaning. Plans for our own Lag B'Omer picnic, traditionally held, are underway, and are discussed elsewhere in this month's FORWARD.

### Yom HaShoah--Commemoration of the Holocaust

The commemoration of the Holocaust is a recent addition to the Jewish celebratory cycle. No special services are planned for this day. However, appropriate selections will be added to Shabbas service on April 11.



Presentations by other groups and synagogues commemorating those who died in the Holocaust will be announced at services the preceding week.

### Yom Hatzma'ot--Israeli Independence Day

While not a specifically religious celebration, the commemoration of the establishment of the first Jewish State in 2,000 years is of great importance to us all. No special services are planned for this day either, but the celebration will be noted at Shabbas services the preceding Friday, April 18.

## **treasurer's report**

On June 30, the present terms of the Va'ad members expire. It is very important to the future of our synagogue that we have a large, representative group of candidates. Please express your desire to run for the Va'ad by contacting Penny Daschinger, Chair of the Elections Committee, at 668-6902.

I particularly hope that more than one of you will choose to run for Treasurer. I've had the honor of serving as Treasurer for almost two years, and take pride in the belief that I have made a small contribution towards the growth of Sha'ar Zahav during that time.

Involvement on the Board, as well as the Executive Committee, with so many intelligent and caring friends is exhilarating, challenging, a real learning experience, and most of all very rewarding.

The candidate should have a basic knowledge of bookkeeping. Naturally, I look forward to working with the new Treasurer during the transition period.

Please call me at home, 861-4776, if you are interested.

Shalom,  
Ron Lezell



I would like to thank those who have added to the joy and spirit of Shabbat recently by sponsoring an oneg. Since a vital part of our Shabbat as Gay and Lesbian Jews is the socializing which follows services, oneg sponsoring is a special Mitzvah for us. Toda Rabbah

Feb 8 Pot Luck, by and for you...our members  
Feb 15 Laurie Radovsky, in honor of six months with Jackie.  
Feb 22 Leila Raim, for her birthday and her father's Yahrzeit.  
Feb 29 Tal and Michael, in honor of each other.  
Mar 7 Anonymous, for the enjoyment of the congregation.  
Mar 14 Membership committee, for our members

In the continuing effort to illicit greater oneg participation, the oneg committee has decided to schedule another Pot Luck Oneg Shabbat on April 18th. Please bring finger foods from one of the following catagories: baked goods, fruits, vegetables, or cheeses, and add to the spirit of Shabbat.

| CHANGE OF ADDRESS   |  |  |  |
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| <p>If you're moving, please allow six weeks for processing time.</p>  | <p>Attach current address label here.</p>                                    |  |  |
| <table border="1"><tr><td><p><b>NEW ADDRESS:</b></p><p>Name _____</p><p>Address _____</p><p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p></td><td><p>Mail to:</p><p>Sha'ar Zahav</p><p>P.O.Box 5640</p><p>S.F. CA 94101</p></td></tr></table> |  | <p><b>NEW ADDRESS:</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p> | <p>Mail to:</p> <p>Sha'ar Zahav</p> <p>P.O.Box 5640</p> <p>S.F. CA 94101</p> |
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"Whether or not you are eligible for the draft, the following article from the Central Conference of American Rabbis' News Letter might be of interest to you or a friend."

#### YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE DRAFT

As you know, President Carter has called for a resumption of draft registration. According to the best intelligence, it will be impossible for youngsters to indicate at the time of registration that they wish to be classified as conscientious objectors to military service, as it was possible to do at the time of registration during the previous draft. What this means, is at the time of receiving induction notice, a youngster will have to declare then if that is his position. At that time it will be much more difficult to prove that this has been a long standing position.

The Jewish Peace Fellowship maintains a conscientious objector registry. It is possible for a young person of any age, before 18 or after 18, to write to the Jewish Peace Fellowship, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, and request that his or her name be added to the registry of conscientious objectors. Then, at any time the young person wishes to file as a conscientious objector, the Jewish Peace Fellowship will send an affidavit that he or she had registered at such and such a date.

If a young person thinks he might possibly be a conscientious objector but isn't sure, he should go ahead and list himself in the registry now. It is very easy to remove one's name from the registry if that isn't one's position later. However, it will be much more difficult to prove conscientious objection when it comes late. We believe that every rabbi, confirmation teacher & youth director would be performing an important service in informing their young people of high school and college age of the existence of the Jewish Peace Fellowship's Registry for conscientious objectors.



# the family circle

Attendance at services on March 14, was very gratifying. and we all enjoyed a lovely Membership Oneg. Our special thanks to all of you who were there to make it such a warm, successful evening.

I have noticed with joy that each month our Newsletter contains more news of activities in which our members and friends can become involved. The hard work done by all the people who make these activities possible deserves all our thanks...but we on the membership committee must say a very special and extra large thanks to them...they are doing our job for us! All there is to do with Sha'ar Zahav, and there is more all the time, encourages people to participate, become more active, and join our congregation. There is work, there is play, there is learning, there is doing. All mitzvot in which we should be happy and proud to participate. Each week I see new faces smiling in anticipation; each week I see them being welcomed with genuine enthusiasm...and the new faces return and become friends...and soon they are doing the welcoming! The joy of our growth, of our warm outreaching to others, enfolding them in our community, our family, our Yiddishkeit...THAT is what we are about. And we are also about pride, and love, and a return to basic values and historical connections. Most of all we are about affirmation. We affirm our worth and the worth of others. We affirm our goodness and the goodness of others. We affirm our rights and the rights of others. We affirm our lives and the lives of others.

This affirmation is the soul, Ha Nefesh, of our existence; the soul of the being we call Sha'ar Zahav. A being grows, or it withers. A soul expands, or it shrivels. We shall be, we shall grow, we shall live. COME BE WITH US!  
Shalom

Leila Raim

Co-Chair, Membership committee



# important notice

We have been advised that the local Nazis have been given a permit to stage a rally on Saturday, April 19th, the day before Adolph Hitler's birthday.

Over a dozen community organizations have gotten together to plan a program in another location in an effort to draw attention away from the planned Nazi program.

It is our understanding that there are relatively few actual members of the American Nazi group in the area, and, if we can divert attention from their program, even the news media will probably go where the greater crowd is.

We are encouraging everyone we know not to go to the Nazi rally, neither as spectators nor as targets. Instead, we are asking you to join us at a "witness" to be held on the same day at noon to show that we do not condone Nazism, but that we will not interfere with their right to speak. (For better or for worse, it is their First Amendment right to do so). The "witness" against Nazism will be held at Bethel AME Methodist Church, 916 Laguna (at Golden Gate). The program will be co-sponsored by almost every religious group in the city, as well as everyone else in areas as diverse as city planning and health care. Several gay and lesbian groups are being asked to co-sponsor the event, since we, too, were victims of the Nazis in the Holocaust.

The program will highlight what the Nazis and Nazism have done in the past, and will focus on what their implications are for the present day.

To show our support for such an undertaking is not only wise; in these times of political backlash, it is potentially a matter of life and death.



# donations

Thanks to the following for their generous donations to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav:

Gerry Rosenstein  
Mary and Alfred Shapiro  
Stan Strauss  
Kurt Stutzman  
Several anonymous donors

# birthdays

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| April 7  | Gordon O.     |
| April 7  | Peter Tannen  |
| April 17 | Bob Rockland  |
| April 23 | Eli W.        |
| April 20 | Leonard Brill |
| April 28 | Harry Lutrin  |
| April 29 | Scott Klein   |

# yahrzeits

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| April 17 | Wally Rifkin, brother of Herman Rifkin       |
| 1 Iyar   | Benjamin Auerbach, father of Isabel Auerbach |
| 12 Iyar  | Abe Schorr, father of Cynthia Schorr         |



# ritual calendar

- April 4 Allen Bennett
- April 11 Yom HaShoa (Holocaust Remembrance Day)  
Rosh Chodesh  
Laurie Radovsky
- April 18 Israel Independence Day  
Daniel Chesir
- April 25 Sermon: Gene Maxey
- May 2 To be announced
- May 9 Laurie Radovsky
- May 16 Rosh Chodesh  
Wendy Weiss
- May 20 (Tuesday) Shavous services 8:00 p.m.
- May 23 Allen Bennett
- May 30 Daniel Chesir

## congregation sha'ar zahav

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